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GOP SENATORS TRY TO REVIVE OTEPKA CASE

Ousted Security Officer Discussed At Party Policy Luncheon

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Washington May 5—~~Republican~~

leaders in the Senate are trying to revive the "Otepka case."

Senator Dirksen (R., Ill.), the Senate minority leader said that the case of Otto Otepka, the State Department security officer who was removed from his key job for allegedly giving information to the Senate on loyalty cases, was the center of discussion at the weekly GOP policy luncheon today.

Dirksen reported that the senators are anxious to force the publication of a sharply critical letter concerning the handling of the Otepka affair, written to the Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, last fall by the Senate Internal Security subcommittee.

Belief Cited

The Senate minority leader said it was his belief that the letter to Rusk was responsible for the dismissal of a number of State Department employees.

The letter presumably cited information disclosed to the committee by Otepka.

A high-ranking staff member of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee said later, however, that to the best of his knowledge there have been no dismissals related to the Otepka case.

Dirksen suggested that after Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, returns to Washington the Republicans may request that the Internal Security Committee's letter to Rusk be turned over to the Foreign Relations group.

Aim Is Noted

That group, he added, may "then decide it's too good to keep."

Dirksen described the letter to Rusk as having "a clout in every paragraph."

He said that Senator Eastland (D., Miss.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who signed the letter, has no objection to its release.

Dirksen made it clear that the aim of the Republicans is to have Otepka reinstated in his original job, as chief security evaluator at the Department of State.

Suspended Last September

Otepka was suspended on September 23, 1963, charged with conduct unbecoming an officer.

The department upheld the charges, and Otepka was dismissed from his \$18,240-a-year post November 5, 1963, but was kept on the State Department payroll pending an appeal.

He is still on the payroll.

Six other officers associated with him in the Bureau of Security have been transferred to the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs for what is described as "a top secret job."

But a staff member of the Internal Security subcommittee said he had been informed that the six men "are just sitting there twiddling their thumbs."

Delivered By Dodd

The letter which the Republican senators now want to make public was hand-delivered to Rusk last September by Senator Dodd (D., Conn.), acting chairman of the Internal Security subcommittee.

The most recent information on dismissals for security reasons was contained in testimony given by a State Department official before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations, and released April 24.

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